

AN ACT

To prohibit fishing at dive sites and tourist snorkeling sites, to authorize the Governor to designate the boundaries of dive sites and to promulgate rules and regulations, to provide penalties for violations of this Act and regulations, and for related purposes.

THE PEOPLE OF KOROR REPRESENTED IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF KOROR DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Eighth Koror State Legislature hereby finds that fish aggregations at popular dive and snorkel spots help to attract tourists, and help to make tourist visits more memorable. Fish are uninhibited and may approach divers and snorkelers more often if fishing is prohibited. Unfortunately, fishing activities tend to scare fish away from people, and will prevent fish from coming close to divers and snorkelers. In area such as the Great Barrier Reef, where fishing is prohibited, divers and snorkelers are approached by curious fish, and visitors have a more memorable experience in interacting with the fish, and photographs of close-up fish may be shared with others, and may encourage other visitors to come to dive and snorkel spots. Fish ultimately prove to be of greater value alive, where they can be seen by tourists year round.

It is in the best interests of the people of Koror to prohibit fishing at popular dive and snorkel spots in Koror.

SECTION 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST FISHING AT DIVE AND SNORKEL LOCATIONS: REGULATIONS AND MARKING OF DIVE SITE BOUNDARIES.

A. No person may engage in any fishing activities, and no person may possess any fish or fishing gear, within one-hundred (100) yards of the following dive and snorkel locations:

- (1) Soft Coral Arch.
- (2) Cemetery Reef
- (3) Ngermeaus
- (4) Blue Holes

- 1 (5) Blue Corner
- 2 (6) Siaes Tunnel/Siaes Corner
- 3 (7) Shark City
- 4 (8) Ngemelis Wall
- 5 (9) Short Drop-Off
- 6 (10) German Channel
- 7 (11) Big Drop-off
- 8 (12) German Wall
- 9 (13) Virgin Blue Holes

10 B. As used in this Act, "fishing activities" means any form of capturing, trapping, or
11 taking fish, including trolling, spear fishing, "bottom" fishing with hook and line, casting, bait
12 fishing, net fishing except for *mekebud*, or any other method of removing fish from the water.

13 C. The Governor is hereby authorized to designate the location of the marker buoys of
14 the foregoing dive and snorkel sites. Each dive and snorkel site will be marked with a colored
15 buoy other than a white buoy. The Governor may promulgate regulations for the administration
16 and enforcement of this Act, which shall have the force and effect of law.

17 D. The Governor may, by regulation, designate other dive or snorkel areas for protection
18 wherein fishing is prohibited in accordance with this Act. Each site will be marked with a
19 colored buoy as described in subsection "C." herein, and it shall be unlawful to fish within one-
20 hundred yards of such marker buoy. The Governor shall provide thirty (30) days notice of any
21 newly designated dive or snorkel spot.

22 **SECTION 3. PROHIBITIONS.**

23 A. It shall be unlawful to fish within one-hundred (100) yards of any dive or snorkeling
24 site, as marked by a colored buoy in accordance with this Act. It shall be unlawful to fish within
25 one-hundred (100) yards of any colored marker buoy that designates a dive or snorkel spot in

26 accordance with this Act.

27 B. It shall be unlawful to remove, tamper with, damage, destroy, deface, possess,

1 transport, or otherwise alter any colored marker buoy used to designate dive and snorkel sites
2 and used to designate areas where fishing is prohibited in accordance with this Act.

3 C. It shall be unlawful to aid, abet, conspire with, or to assist any person to violate any
4 prohibition of this Act, or any prohibition contained in any rules or regulations promulgated by
5 the Governor.

6 **SECTION 4. PENALTIES.**

7 Any person who violates any provisions of this Act or who violates any rules or
8 regulations promulgated by the Governor for the administration or enforcement of this Act, shall,
9 upon conviction, pay a fine in the amount of \$100.00, and may be sentenced to spend up to
10 ninety (90) days in jail, or both. Each separate day that this Act is violated, each separate
11 location of violation, and each fish taken or possessed in violation of this Act, shall be a separate
12 offense which may be punished separately.

13 **SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY.**

14 The provisions of this Act are severable. If any part or portion of this Act is held to be
15 invalid or unenforceable, then the offending portions may be stricken and the remaining portions
16 shall continue in full force and effect.

1 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act shall become effective upon its becoming law of the State of Koror by operation
3 of the Koror State constitution.

PASSED ON: December 21, 2007

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:

/s/ _____
Timothy "Tero" Uehara
Speaker
Eighth Koror State Legislature

/s/
Rena Iluches
Clerk
Eighth Koror State Legislature

APPROVED ON THIS DAY 24TH OF DECEMBER, 2007

_____/s/
Yositaka Adachi
Governor
Koror State